- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Use of Internet and web marketing; and
- Generating Tourist Publications.

Statement

Details regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals and foreign exchange earned

Country	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (In million)			Foreign Exchange Earned (US$ Million)		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
France	75.05	75.12	76.00	37038	40842	42276
Spain	51.83	53.60	55.58	41770	45248	47891
USA	41.21	46.08	49.40	64509	74481	81680
China	32.97	41.76	46.81	17406	25739	29296
Italy	39.60	37.07	36.51	31222	35658	35398
U.K.	24.72	27.71	29.97	22752	27299	30373
Mexico	18.67	20.62	21.92	9457	10753	11755
Germany	18.39	20.14	21.50	22984	27657	29204
Turkey	13.34	16.83	20.27	13203	15888	18152
Austria	19.08	19.37	19.95	14068	15412	15467
India	2.73	3.46	3.92*	3533	4769	5731*

*Provisional

Promotion of tourism in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

†1604. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to promote tourism in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, the State Government has sent a plan to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the places in Vidarbha to be developed as tourist spots; and

(c) by when, all the facilities would be made available for tourists at these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them. During the 9th and 10th Plan periods (till 2005-06) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for Vidarbha region:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
1.	Tourist Inn at Tadoba	45.50
2.	Jungle Resort at Khindsey, Nagpur	49.61
3.	Nature Interpretation Centre at Sillari/Pench, Distt, Nagpur	49.94
4.	Tourist complex at Bordam, District Wardha	48.95
5.	Tourist complex at Khekarnala, District Nagpur	49.46
6.	Vidarbha Development Plan	14.75
7.	Adventure and watersports at Chikhaldara District Amaravati	6.71
8.	Adventure & Watersports activity at Navegaon, Khairi, Nagpur District	6.91
9.	Development of View Point at Chikhaldara, District Amaravati	30.00
10.	Budget accommodation at Nagpur	48.68

The above projects have already been completed. However, no project proposal has been prioritised for development of Vidarbha during 2006-07 nor has any such project proposal been received.

Promotion of coastal tourism

1605. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been conceived by Government to promote coastal monuments/tourist spots by introduction of domestic cruise shipping in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are Government's efforts to promote coastal tourism in this peninsula?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism infrastructure development of specified tourism projects including projects related to coastal monuments and tourist spots of States/ Union Territories and procurement of cruise vessels, boats etc. for promotion of cruise tourism. Ministry of Tourism has also given No Objection Certificate to two private operators to operate their cruise vessels for the purpose of cruise tourism promotion along the Indian coast.

In addition to above, a High Power Steering Group has been constituted to formulate Cruise Shipping policy for the country. On the recommendations of this Steering Group, a Wokring Group has been constituted by Department of Shipping for identification of Ports having cruise tourism facilities along the East and West Coast of India.